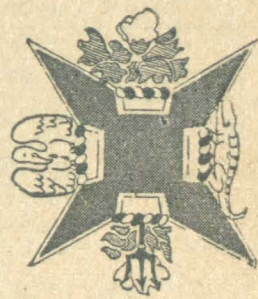




"IT SHALL BE DONE"

The DIXIE

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE DIXIE (31st) DIVISION



VOLUME 1

CAMP BLANDING, FLORIDA, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1941

NUMBER 39

- Commendations -

HEADQUARTERS IV ARMY CORPS

Major General John C. Persons
Commanding General
31st Infantry Division

I wish to express to you and the personnel of your command my genuine satisfaction with the high standards attained during the maneuvers just completed. Your energetic leadership and the responsiveness of your command contributed in full measure to the success of our operations.

The thoroughness and effectiveness of preliminary training were evident. Particularly pleasing was the steady progress noted throughout the maneuvers. The conduct of the men, the energy, efficiency and high standard displayed by all grades were noteworthy.

The officers and men of the 31st Division are commended for excellent performance of the duty that called for continuous effort and under circumstances that tested both interest and stamina to the full.

JAY L. BENEDICT
Major General

HEADQUARTERS 31ST INFANTRY DIVISION

Office of the Commanding General

Ragley, Louisiana
October 1, 1941

To the Men of the 31st Infantry Division:

1. The conduct and performance of the men of the 31st Division from the time it left Camp Blanding for the Maneuver area to this date has been outstandingly excellent. Your record in the maneuvers just completed has justified the arduous training and preparation at Camp Blanding.

2. It is very gratifying to me and must be to you that in less than a year the Dixie Division has become an efficient fighting machine ready to take its place as a front line combat unit in defense of our country.

3. I am confident that the same high standards that now prevail in the Dixie Division will be maintained on the return to Camp Blanding and during the Carolina maneuvers. You have earned an enviable reputation by the hardest kind of work and it is the duty of everyone of us to see that no careless act reflects on the Division.

4. I thank all of you for your fine work which has surpassed even my expectations.

JOHN C. PERSONS
Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding

Visitors Furnish All Edibles During Stay

Certain members of the 106th Medical Regiment are still talking of the excellent chicken spread tendered there by Mr. and Mrs. Jim Abraham of New Orleans, La., parents of Private Wilson P. Abraham of Company G. It happened about two weeks ago, but the boys still remember the chicken, cold meats, salads, relishes and desserts. But, best of all, there was a tablecloth, believe it or not. That's the only time anything like that happened after the soldiers left home.

Mr. and Mrs. Abraham and John Mansour of DeRidder, La., came to the Medicos' bivouac area near Oakdale, La., for their entertainment of the officers and enlisted men. Guests were Captain Joseph George Damien, Lieutenants Frank R. Braden, Lamar Lambert and Marco Carey, and enlisted friends of Wilson Abraham.

Discovers Classmate Among The Captured

Lieutenant H. L. Beach, Assistant S-3 of the 155th Infantry has decided that this is a small world after all since he found his old friend in the Stockade as a Red Prisoner. Going down to the Stockade early one morning he discovered an old classmate from Clemson University, who was a member of the 13th Cavalry 1st Armored Division from Fort Knox and had been captured by the 155th.

Birthday Cake On Maneuvers

Pvt. First Class Dean Mountain, Headquarters Battery of the 116th Field Artillery, celebrated his 24th birthday with a war in full blast about him. He received a big red, white and blue cake from home, complete with candles, and his guests were the other men employed with him in the 116th message center.

Sergeant Arrives A Trifle Early

Sgt. James Morgan of Selma, Ala., was rushing back to join his unit last week in Hammond, La., returning from furlough. He was under the impression that his "outfit" was scheduled to arrive in Hammond Wednesday. Sgt. Morgan was on time there spending Tuesday night in Hammond. He also spent his remaining change, expecting his cash supply to be replenished when he joined his troops. Wednesday came and no troops. Sgt. Morgan became nervous and borrowed \$5.00 on his wrist watch from a kindly newspaper editor and set out to find his company. His company arrived in Hammond the next Friday.

Sleepy Corporal Repeats Meal

Corp. Frank Hart, Headquarters Company 167th Inf. of Montgomery went to sleep immediately after eating supper one night last week in Louisiana. Later in the night he was awakened by the rattle of mess kits as a late detail from the wire section ate a delayed supper. Corp Hart jumped up, grabbed his mess kit and passed through the mess line.

"Aw shucks," he said looking at the food in his mess kit, "that's the same thing we had for supper last night."

Great-Hearted For A Reason

Hq. Btry. 1st Bn., 114th F. A. is getting awfully broad-minded these days. One night last week a bunch of so-called wild hogs broke into the kitchen and devoured the breakfast bread. Casual inquiries were made the following morning as to where the "G I" was that usually accompanied the eggs and bacon, but there seemed to be no dissatisfaction because of the loss. "We're glad to be of assistance to anything more unfortunate than we," one spokesman said, "and after all we never missed it."

Furlough Scheduled For Every Man In 31st

Wire Tappers Learn Where Lear Works

We didn't try to capture General Lear, but we did send his Headquarters a greeting over the phone, says the 3rd Battalion Wire Section in the Headquarters Company 155th Infantry from Vicksburg, Mississippi. When the 155th suddenly captured a town, these boys got a plug in on a trunk line of the Second Army. The section was commanded by Lt. John M. Hogg and consisted of Sgt. Leo D. Mayerhoff, Sgt. Frank Mahoney, Pvt. J. D. Hale, Corp. Harry P. Cato, and Pvt. Willard Corbin.

They asked the operator for 2nd Army Hq. They got it and though they were told that they couldn't speak to General Lear at present, they did get the G 2, Intelligence Officer. They told him that they were General Ward's assistants (a 2nd Army General), and that they were lost in the woods and wanted to know how to get to his Headquarters. They told him also that they had some very valuable information for General Lear. Before letting the Red Officer know their identity, they learned that their Hq. was in the school building at Natchitoches, Louisiana. This information was sent back to the Blue Army Field Artillery and the General of the Red forces was run from his headquarters by artillery fire.

Not Enough Fire Power

When the talk turns to fire superiority of the M-1 rifle, there'll be one assertion that Pfc. Alvin G. "Oscar the Medico" Stewart, assigned to Co. M, 156th Inf., will make: the Garand may be a good weapon but it won't stop a tank. And Stewart's remarks won't be based on theory but on actual experience.

The word came through in the company that a squadron of tanks was coming. Trucks were immediately hidden and "Oscar the Medico," having never seen a tank, hid in a brush pile beside the road to watch them pass. Shortly the clanking monsters began to roll by. Suddenly they stopped, one directly opposite the soldier's hiding-place. "Oscar" watched excitedly as a head popped from the turret and slowly scanned the country. Finally he felt that he could control himself no longer. He grabbed a rifle from one of his buddies and, with a Fairbanks leap, was in the open. "You're captured," he shouted.

Co. M's last sight of Oscar the Medico was just as he disappeared over the horizon with three tanks in hot pursuit.

Hotel Gives Soldier Band Free Music

Sergeant Harry Wilcox of the band 155th Infantry reports another incident where Louisiana people stepped out of their way to be nice to the soldiers from Blanding. The Bentley Hotel in Alexandria donated Sergeant Wilcox, who is director of the 155th Blue Moods Orchestra, five of the newest popular swing numbers on the market. Sergeant says that since the Orchestra has to buy its own music, the favor was especially appreciated.

Regiment Bivouacs In Darkest La.

The 116th Field Artillery Headquarters Battery was maneuvering near Pleasant Hill, La., when the Second-Third Army war was concluded. The Battery bivouaced overnight in the negro section of town. Says Corp. Don F. Hayden, Battery clerk: "Now I know how Livingston felt."

Soldiers Think General's Idea Pretty Good

Its worth getting bawled out if you can have it done by the General himself, say Sergeant Thomas J. Parker and Pvt. Grover C. Shivers of the Band 155th Infantry. Sgt. Parker and Private Shivers were in Oakdale, Louisiana wearing blue denim when all of a sudden there stood a stern looking officer before them. Private Shivers says that he started looking at his elbow and looked up to his neck and there were stars all the way up.

But "Stars fell on Louisiana" When Lieutenant General Walter Krueger bawled the two out for not wearing khaki when in town. He took their names, and the two hardly expect to be made Lieutenants because of the incident. Pvt. Shivers explained after he got back to his bivouac area, "I talked this thing over with Walter and we think it best to wear khaki while in town."

Ruse Works; Oscar Finds

If you don't think much of company clerk or members of service companies as "fighting" soldiers, don't go around Service Company, 156th Infantry, and tell your opinions. They'll prove to you that you're wrong. This Louisiana unit, backed by a few company clerks, made one of the most important captures of the "war"—a convoy of Red trucks, bearing 107 of the enemy, far behind the Blue lines.

Hearing from a truck driver that a large body of the enemy had penetrated the front and was approaching, 1st Lt. Lionel J. Champagne, acting commander of the service unit, placed his men for action. The road along which the enemy was to come was surrounded. Everything was in readiness. Suddenly the convoy of Reds rounded a curve in the road. Out jumped a Blue soldier, carrying what looked like a Garand rifle. "O. K., you guys with the machine-guns; you needn't shoot," he shouted to his friends concealed in the brush, "All they have is rifles. We can take care of them."

As the Reds meekly climbed out of their trucks, hands held high, they saw the "rifles" and "machine-guns" that had made the capture—sticks of wood crudely fashioned in the shape of arms.

Barefoot Boy Proves Point

"Them city fellers" over in Co. B, 156th Inf., aren't going to argue the merits of shoes versus bare feet on long hikes any more; the matter has been settled beyond a shadow of a doubt.

For a long time, members of the company from large towns had laughed at the country boys in the outfit for going barefooted occasionally. But now their smiles are gone.

To prove the point of their side of the argument, the boys from the "sticks" chose Pvt. Mabray Sonnier to represent them on a "barefoot hike" on the last phase of the problem. As the men with shoes dropped out one by one to give their feet a rest, Pvt. Sonnier trudged happily along, remarking that the "dust sure does feel good between your toes."

Band Still Feels Old School Spirit

Though the Mississippi College Band is now the band for the 155th Infantry and far from its home in Clinton, Mississippi, they haven't forgotten the old school. This week upon request they sat down and wrote out by hand a copy of every one of their old school and pep songs and sent them to the temporary director of band at Mississippi College.

Gen. Guerre Captured By Own Brigade

One of the most important captures made by Louisiana's 156th Infantry regiment during recent maneuvers was found to be doubly important by regimental officials when they investigated what the trucks carried. In the Red convoy of 21 vehicles which had set out to carry prisoners to the rear were Brigadier-Gen. Louis F. Guerre, commander of the 61st Infantry Brigade; Lt. Col. Frank P. Stubbs, commander of the 156th's third battalion; and 1st Lt. Alba Heywood, acting head of the regiment's Anti-Tank company.

Movie Star Sends Photo To Soldier

Corporal Georgie Holmes of the 106th Medicos really knows how to use his fists. And, judging by his fan mail, George must be able to dish out that sex appeal stuff, too. In case you don't know, Corporal Holmes is lightweight champion of the 31st (Dixie) Division. Well, not long ago he fought a winning fight in Pensacola. In the audience were Olivia DeHavilland and George Brent of movie fame. After his fight, Holmes danced with gorgeous Olivia, slipped highballs with Brent, and in the bargain received a personally-autographed photograph of Olivia not long afterwards.

Wool Uniforms To Be Issued During October

Every enlisted man in the division will have a complete wool uniform before departure for North Carolina maneuvers, it was announced this week.

Soldiers already outfitted with the uniforms will receive no additional clothing but fully fifty-percent of the division will for the first time be wearing the full winter uniform.

Items to be included in the requisition which will bring the division's dress up to par, are the field jacket, a water-repellent, gaberdine-finished garment, valued at about seven dollars, a wool coat, shirt, and trousers.

An effort is being made to hasten the requisition procedure and it is hoped that all units will be serviced within two weeks.

Informal Dances Planned For Men By Service Club

Mrs. C. W. Chalker, hostess of the 31st Division Service Club, announced this week that informal open-houses will be held nightly in the hostess house until the division departs for North Carolina maneuvers if the plan meets with general approval.

The suggestion was made to assure all units the use of the service club in the three-week period before maneuvers begin. Mrs. Chalker said. Regimental dances would limit attendance, it being possible to have at most only two unit functions a week. However plans are yet tentative.

Meanwhile, work on the service club is almost completed. During the summer all the floors were given a smooth finish. Work on the outside includes a packed driveway and sodded grounds.

Spoils of war for the officers and men of the 31st Division are being reaped this week as hundreds took advantage of Major General John C. Person's blanket order granting seven-day "vacations" for personnel of the Dixie regiments.

Fifty percent of the officers and men of the Mississippi and Louisiana units were granted leaves and furloughs before the units departed from Louisiana making it possible for them to visit their homes at minimum expense. The other half of these units will be granted seven days off after arrival of the units at Camp Blanding.

Dixie Past Looks Like A Timetable

Forty times the Dixie Division rolled its packs during the past two months moved through five states, marched hundreds of miles, rode thousands — proving the effectiveness of its mobility under tactical conditions, in rain and mud, through dust and black-out.

The division's itinerary between the departure from Camp Blanding, on July 26, and the arrival here October 6 of the Dixie CP, reads like a cross-country bus line's time table. Bivouac areas of the division command post were in the following order:

Thomasville, Ga.
Andalusia, Ala.
Laurel, Miss.
Natchez, Miss.
Antonia, La.
Breezy Hill, La.
Rochelle, La.
Curry, La.
Breezy Hill, La.
Sanders Church, near Winnfield, La.
North of Railroad, Sanders Church vicinity.
Sparta Tower.
Sanders Church.
North of R. R.
Breezy Hill.
Ball, La.
Ward, La.
Pawnee, La.
McNarry, La.
Ball, La.
Rock Hill, La.
Rapides, La.
McNutt, La.
Rapides, La.
South of McNutt.
Sugartown, La.
Fullerton, La.
Flatwoods, La.
Red Dirt, La.
Ward, La.
La. Camp.
Simpson, La., Schoolhouse.
Lotus, La.
Robeline, La.
Pelican, La.
Ward, La.
Hammond, La.
Gulfport, Miss.
Mobile, Ala.
Milton, Fla.
Tallahassee, Fla.
Camp Blanding, Fla.

Of the Alabama and Florida units, one third are to be granted seven-day leaves and furloughs at a time from Camp Blanding until all members of the personnel have had the privilege.

In granting enlisted men furloughs, Major General Persons laid down two simple rules: (1) Every man must pass a rigid inspection on personal appearance, no soldier being allowed to leave unless he is clean and neat of person and clothing; (2) each man must show evidence that he has the necessary transportation, hitch-hiking being expressly prohibited.

In granting leaves to officers, the commander explained, those who have had no leave would be given preference. Those with only short leaves heretofore would be considered next, and officers who have already had extensive leaves would receive last consideration.

Commenting upon the work of the Dixie Division during the Louisiana maneuvers, the commanding general declared that the Southern soldiers are now "veterans with as fine a record as it was possible to attain."

"The entire 31st Division lived up to my expectations," General Persons said. "The 110-mile march the division made during the final phase of the maneuvers proved our regiment closest to Shreveport among Third Army units, again demonstrating the value of hard physical training and sound physical condition."

There was a minimum of sickness and accidents among the 31st Division units, the general explained, and the division operated smoothly at all times in the face of all sorts of obstacles. He expressed satisfaction at reports of all Blanding-bound convoys movements. The last echelon is due to arrive here Thursday afternoon.

"The men of the 31st Division have been through high school and are now ready for college," bluntly declared the commanding general when questioned regarding the Dixie's future plans.

During the next three weeks the division will be occupied with reorganization, reclothing and general shakedown activities, after which the convoys will again roll, going first to South Carolina and then to maneuvers in North Carolina. The division is expected to be absent from Camp Blanding practically all of November.

Mobile Misses Mobilize To Entertain Dixie Soldiers

With the huge Dixie caravan swinging across four states, doubling the size of cities it visited, large scale preparations were necessary in the cities playing host to the South's own—31st. True army system was used by Mobile Girls as they mobilized to entertain their visitors in uniform. Below is a sample of the order, complete even to the executive form:

MOBILE ARMY RECREATION SERVICE
To All Officers and Cadets:

6100 soldiers will camp in Mobile over-night on Friday and Saturday, October 3 and 4, 1941. 2300 men will be here Friday night and 3800 men will be here Saturday night—a different group each night. The men are from Alabama, Mississippi and Florida. There will be a dance each of the two nights at Fort Whiting Auditorium from 9:00-12:00. Every MARS girl is needed to help extend the hospitality of the city to our own boys. Will you keep these dates open so that you can attend both nights?

By Command of General Frances Peck:

OFFICIAL
Helen Van Antwerp,
Major, M. A. R. S.
Adjutant.

Ruth E. Blacktopp, ---
Colonel, M. A. R. S.
Executive Officer.

THE DIXIE

Official Newspaper of the
DIXIE (31ST) DIVISION
Camp Blanding, Florida

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Pvt. Gene Thatcher	106th Med., 106th Engrs.
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THE DIXIE is published each week in the interest of the officers and men of the 31st Division with publication offices at Press Section, Division Headquarters, Phone 240, Camp Blanding.

SENSIBLE ARMY REPORTING

In a recent editorial, entitled "Defending the Army," The Florida Times-Union had a few statements to offer that the editors of The Dixie consider some of the most sensible to appear in a civilian newspaper. The reporter quoted had been on the field with the troops and knew of the subject he handled. Any real soldier reading the article will certainly agree with the "gripes" the writer had. We reprint the Times-Union editorial:

Residents of this section will welcome the return of the soldiers based at Camp Blanding from the maneuvers in Louisiana where they have won the plaudits of high-ranking Army officers for their soldierly conduct and of civilian observers for their manly qualities.

Readers of The Times-Union are familiar with the words of praise given by the Army officers, which have been fully reported by this paper's staff writer from day to day during the maneuvers. They likewise have noted from time to time expressions concerning the morale of the men. All of these news reports have served to strengthen the faith of the lay public in the Army's training program and in the young men who compose that branch of the Nation's armed forces.

However, there are angles to the program that deserve the special attention of the American people. They are treated in an article by Joseph Harsch, a member of the staff of the Christian Science Monitor, and one of the most recent reporters to come out of Germany. Mr. Harsch is the author of the book, "Pattern of Conquest," which explains why the present conflict is not just a European war but a plan of conquest in which every minute detail has been worked out.

After staying with the soldiers during the Louisiana maneuvers, he offers an able answer to critics of the Army. "You can't stay very long with this bunch of plain, decent, ordinary American boys in the Army here without wanting to go to bat for them when they are being abused or unfairly treated," he writes. "They are a decent bunch of boys . . . They have their faults, their pranks, their grouches. But to spend days going around among them and just looking at their faces, listening to their conversation and watching their behavior makes you feel good all over—and tremendously reassured.

"Physically they are a fine looking bunch. My mind goes back to all the Nazi statements about American degeneracy I heard in Berlin when I was covering the war in Germany. If we are a degenerated people in any respect—physical, moral or intellectual—you can't find any evidence of it here.

"These boys are a finer looking physical type than the German army by far. They have more zest than the German soldier. They have unbounded confidence in themselves. They have an extraordinary appreciation of what this world situation is all about. They don't like being soldiers. But just because they don't like it—which is as it should be for Americans—they make better soldiers than the German, I am sure. And just about every one of them takes this for granted.

"There may be some political defeatists in Washington. But there aren't any soldier defeatists here.

"All of which adds up to making one intensely annoyed and fairly angry when you find someone taking advantage of them or abusing them unfairly—particularly when the unfairness comes from other Americans who aren't going through the swamps and dirt and insects and discomforts in every form which these boys are taking."

Which leads the Monitor writer to the description of three grouches. The first of these is the fast-moving passenger automobile with full headlights cutting in and out of

convoys, blinding drivers of heavy trucks and tanks and men on motorcycles operated under "blackout" conditions, often causing accidents, many of which cause deaths. Such conduct is considered as "callous, cruel refusal of some civilians to share for just a few miles on the highway the conditions imposed on the Army."

Second, a soldier gets \$21 a month. Often he likes and sometimes he needs, to buy food out of his own pocket in restaurants, yet "there are hundreds of restaurants in this maneuver area which have doubled and sometimes tripled their prices for the Army's benefit." But the "country people and the non-merchant townsmen have treated the boys extremely well. They are invited into meals and entertained everywhere they go. Some outfits say the people are more cordial and friendly here than any place else they have been in the United States."

The third grouch is against "one of the biggest and most influential newspapers," which "has a correspondent here who is under instructions from his publisher to look for things that may be used to smear the Army." The newspaper "has a policy of wanting to keep this country out of war and uses this means of doing it. The theory is that if the American people can be made to believe that the Army is incompetent and useless, it will insist on keeping that Army at home. Whatever the merits in the motive—which is another matter—the result is a gross unfairness to the entire Army from its officers to its lowest private. And it hurts them deeply. It's pretty hard to go through what these boys are and then read in the papers that they are a bunch of stupid, useless, ignorant, untrained incompetent bums. It takes the heart out of them as much as anything could. Such an attitude is yeoman service to Hitler.

"And this same newspaper argues that America is impregnable. Which way do they want to have it? If the Army is useless and incompetent just how impregnable can American defense be? The only fair thing to these boys is to argue the issue of intervention on its merits and report this Army on its merits."

Which is sound reasoning. The picture given by Mr. Harsch conforms to that which we have had in mind all along—that although the Army may have some defects, it is mostly all right from the highest officer to the rawest recruits, especially in spirit and determination. If there is any weakness in the situation it lies mostly in the mental process of the observers who are found of dealing with negatives.

Fake Weapons Do The Work

Most soldiers don't like maneuvers because of the discomforts that have to be undergone. Pfc. Harold Coburn, Co. A, 156th Inf., has a different reason. Here's what happened to him during the problems:

Just before his regiment went on maneuvers in Louisiana, Pfc. Coburn got married—and moved his wife to Pelican, Louisiana.

For two months, Coburn lived within one hundred miles of Pelican—but never saw his wife, due to the fact that no furlough had been issued.

And then Co. A bivouaced one

mile from Pelican—but Coburn wasn't there. He had been promoted to artificer and his duties kept him in the base camp—one hundred miles away.

Company Rejoicing Over Recent Death Of Captain's Pet

Captain J. G. Damiens, personnel officer of the Medicos, has lost his pet, but the only one mourning is Captain Damiens himself. The rest of the boys are rejoicing. The reason? The pet was a big pet tarantula (spider to you) who succumbed after two months of living in a jelly jar.

31st Division Made History In The Swamps Of Louisiana

(By Corp. James Alsop)

When the last truck of the final convoy rolls into Blanding Thursday it will close a chapter in the history of the Dixie Division. With return to camp, many of the men who fought through the Louisiana campaigns will leave the 31st, heading back into civilian life.

Others will spend a month preparing for the cold weather action in North Carolina. But all helped build what amounts to an amazing story when taken as a complete picture.

How a group of men, taken from civil life and thrown into khaki uniforms, could work together—try hard enough—to amaze military observers, is a hard problem to explain. But the Dixie Division was the miracle outfit of maneuvers. The Alexandria Daily Town Talk, probably the paper taking the greatest interest in the mock war, saw fit to give the 31st banner headlines on the day the Third Army threw the knockout punch into General Lear's armored Second Army. That was the importance neutral observers attached to the part played by the Southern unit.

When the twenty thousand men of the 31st rolled into the Breezy Hill bivouac area, they were untested and not completely certain of themselves. During the wait for action, the hard working engineers kept showers and roads in condition for the men who marked time.

The opening action took them within a few miles of Winnfield, far north of base camp. Against the single division, the 43rd and the 4th divisions, supported by armored cavalry, threw an attack, at the entrenched Dixie soldiers. Numerical odds were approximately three to one.

The first phase of the action found a fast traveling "Rolling Fourth" unable to find an opening on the flanks while the 43rd fell back. In the next phase, skeleton units fought off the New Englander's advances, while the Fourth was sucked into a trap and hit hard from the side. High ranking officers made special trips after that affair, trying to find the secret of the unbeliev-

able turn of events. Several days of rest in a base camp near Alexandria gave officers a chance to uncover errors and find weaknesses. Leaves were granted while preparations went on.

Then the 31st joined the other divisions of the IV Army Corps, enemies in Winnfield, as they again became underdogs when facing the V and VIII along the Red River. The odds were too much for Major General Benedict's forces, the enemy assaults cracking his defense lines. But when the action ceased, a stubborn 31st still held a salient, having fought on a fifteen or twenty mile front at times. The Dixie Division units often had to furnish support to others of the Corps during that action.

At the finish of that maneuver, men were again granted leaves and hitches ironed out. For the last time, the 31st pitched tents near Alexandria.

When Lear's Legions poured out of Arkansas, the 31st donned Blue armbands and turned, with the rest of Lt. Gen. Walter Krueger's Third Army, to face the fast moving invaders. They set up a defense line across the Pelican state and into Texas. Holding the vital center, the 31st was thrown into the very path of the oncoming tanks. They gave way at first, but as the terrain and filtering infantry, assisted heartily by anti-tank guns, began to slow the armored attacks, the scene changed.

Foot soldiers began to gain ground. For days the division advanced. The 38th moved forward at the same time, and when action ceased, over one hundred miles had been won.

Dixie Training To Be Used In Philippines

Company B of the 124th Infantry Regiment has in its ranks a private from the Philippines who, although attached to the officer's mess as orderly for Colonel Fred A. Safay, regimental commander, takes pride in his record of meeting every formation. He is Mariano Maramba, selective service private from Miami.

The Filipino takes a keen interest in military knowledge of all sorts and has made all the hikes with the rifle company, including the Ocala trek. He intends to use his military training as a basis for service with the Filipino Scouts, military organization which is a branch of the U. S. Army, on his return to his native island.

Mariano is quite popular with his company mates, who do their part in adding to his military knowledge.

Dixie Circulation Spreading Now

The Dixie goes far and wide over the globe as evidenced by members of the 124th Infantry Regiment.

Men of the 124th send copies of the paper published by the 31st "Dixie" Division to far corners of the earth. Examples are Corp. Julian McDowell of Headquarters Company who sends a copy regularly to his brother in Hqs. Battery 89th F. A. located at Fort Henry Davis in the Canal Zone. Pfc. Traylor, member of Company A and a member of the press section, mails one weekly to Ensign Richard Bull at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Pfc. Joe Dowling of the First Battalion has a brother-in-law in Buenos Aires who is a constant reader of the "Dixie."

The activities of the famous 31st Division are brought to the attention of many readers all over the world by the simple act of just mailing a copy to some member of the family or a close friend.

Outstanding

In a recent story which cited several divisions units for outstanding feats in the first phase of the 2nd-3rd Army war, THE DIXIE, through error, made the statement that "the 3rd Battalion of the 124th Infantry was the one which made the capture of the Armored Division's supplies." Action of the entire regiment was outstanding but this particular performance was executed by the 2nd Battalion of the 124th, assisted by the reconnaissance group.

History's Pages Turned Back As Descendants Fought Again

Starke Theatres

FLORIDA THEATRE
Thursday, October 9—"Life Begins For Andy Hardy" with Lewis Stone, Mickey Rooney, Fay Holden.

Friday, Saturday, October 10-11—"3 Sons of Guns" with Wayne Morris; and "Rage in Heaven" with Robert Montgomery and Ingrid Bergman.

RITZ THEATRE
Thursday, October 9—"Whistling In The Dark" and "Major Barbara."

Friday, Saturday, Oct. 10-11—"Border Vigilantes" and "Behind The News."

PARK THEATRE
Thursday, October 9—"Badlands of Dakota" with Robert Stack and Ann Rutherford.

Friday, Saturday, Oct. 10-11—"Sky Bandits" with James Newell and Louise Stanley and "Straight Shooter" with Tim McCoy.

Midnight Show, Saturday Night, 11:30 p. m.—"Murder Among Friends" with Marjorie Weaver and John Hubbard.

Southern soldiers won the second battle of Mansfield, La., last week on the final day of fighting during the second phase of army maneuvers. Their Confederate forefathers won the first battle in April, 1864.

Lt. Col. Bowie Hooper, commanding the second battalion, 167th Infantry, didn't know that he faced the same tactical problem that a Confederate general had worked out 77 years before when he advanced against Red positions on a hill south of Mansfield. Like the General before him, Col. Hooper saw that the enemy position could not be taken by frontal assault. He ordered an enveloping movement with soldiers from Co. F and Co. G advancing from the flanks up the same ravine that the Gray-clad soldiers had used long before. Col. Hooper's tactics were as successful as had been those of the Confederate officer, both driving Yankees from the hill. The modern Yankees were the 140th Infantry.

WARM RECEPTION



The citizenry of Starke came to life this week, beginning a campaign to greet the returning men in uniform. With the Chamber of Commerce handling details, the merchants contributed to a fund for decoration of the city. A committee dressed a lamp post for the occasion.

Two Week's Puppy Hunt Results In Happy Ending

A sixteen-year-old girl was reunited with her pet puppy in Boyce, La., before the Division left, only after the entire Staff had turned dog catcher. Two frantic letters to Major General John C. Persons resulted in the happy ending. Although not quite up to the minute in the matter of rank, the determined little Miss knew enough about the army system to go to the man with influence. Several weeks of search ended with the M. P.s tracing the canine through several companies and into an artillery regiment, where he had been adopted. The second of the two letters follows:

Boyce, Louisiana, September 15, 1941
Major General John C. Persons, Commanding General of the 31st (Dixie) Division
Ragley, Louisiana

Dear Major General Persons,
Here I am disturbing you again, but I wanted to let you know a little more about our dog.

Yesterday afternoon my father and brother followed the 31st division looking for you completely out to Lake Charles. When they reached the camping place they found the division had moved about an hour before, so thinking they could catch up with them they drove on for miles, until they came out by Lake Charles. By this surely you must be able to see Major how fond we are of this dog.

Sunday morning while my father was visiting a friend of his about Zimmerman, Louisiana, he told him some soldiers had been camped up in his pasture, and they had a rat terrier dog with them tied that answered to the description of our dog, which lead my father to go out looking for him clear to Lake Charles. This bunch of soldiers was attached to the 28th Quartermaster Regiment of the 31st division.

Our dog has also been seen by a negro who knows the dog well, tied with a bunch of soldiers at a McNutt church for the negroes. The soldiers all called it "The McNutt Church." The dog was seen there the same afternoon it was lost, and the boys were trying to feed and pet him up. Major, is this not proof enough the dog is there in the division where you are Major General?

You could make me so very happy if you'd look into and investigate this for me, and the rest of the family.

Major, if you find this dog even if its after you get back to your home camps, if you'll ship him back to us, we'll gladly pay the freight. Just ship him C. O. D. to Mr. C. J. DeKeyser, Boyce, La.

This dog is sadly missed by the family, and I know he misses us too. I'm sending you a picture of our dog that the soldiers have taken. His head is a bit shaded, but you can easily tell what he looks like. Thanking you again very much for some information on our dog I remain,

Sincerely yours,
Miss Patricia DeKeyser, Boyce, La.

Not even Miss DeKeyser was more relieved than the Dixie Division commander when the puppy was finally located after an intensive search. He personally dispatched Lieutenant Mose Wander to her home to deliver the missing canine.

Three Girls Help Men Pass Sunday

The usual monotony of Sunday evening was pleasantly shattered one maneuver night for Headquarters Battery of the 116th Field Artillery. The Battery bivouaced in Pleasant Hill, La., at the conclusion of the Second-Third Army war.

Across the street from the camp a family named Mary invited the soldiers to help themselves to the sparkling, cold well water, and in the process the artillerymen made the acquaintance of the daughters of the house, Misses Edna, Alma, and Dora Mary. The three pretty young ladies accepted an invitation to have supper with the battery and even went through the mess line like the soldiers. For the first time First Sergeant Henry Hill, of St. Petersburg, considered himself out-ranked and gave up his position as first in line to the ladies.

Mispronounced But Correct

"We just ran over one of those killer-dillers," shouted Pvt. Fred Owens, who drives one of Company H, 167th Inf. trucks, upon joining his mates in the Louisiana bivouac area last week.

The Jacksonville, Alabama, soldiers laughed when one of Pvt. Owens' companions explained that he was referring to an armadillo.

Colonel Wasn't Really Psycic, Just Smart

"Our enemy was the most accommodating organization of Yankees we've ever encountered," said Col. Walter M. Thompson, commanding officer of the 167th Infantry, after the final battle near Shreveport.

Col. Thompson recounted how he had instructed his "walkie-talkie" radio operators to keep their sets silent and pick up the enemy transmitters. Sgt. Bert Guttery of Montgomery picked up a Red code word and answered, giving the 'phone' to Capt. Owen Leach, regimental staff officer. Capt. Leach questioned the Red radioman using the name of Capt. Messner, a prisoner. The enemy revealed himself as Lt. Reynolds, an observer, who was calling for help as the Blue forces were closing in on him.

Later, when a lieutenant of the 161st Field Artillery was being questioned by Intelligence Officer Capt. Dent Williams, Col. Thompson strolled up and addressed the Red officer who had refused to identify himself.

"Lt. Reynolds," the Col. asked. The Red officer was startled. "How did you know who I was," he asked. The colonel laughed and explained how he had learned the Red officer's identity.

"The Yankees were still further obliging in leaving us enough wire strung for use to operate our communication set-up," Col. Thompson said.

Long Hikes Find Church Still There

The 155th Infantry walked over twenty miles both Saturday and Sunday and each night found them in church for Religious Services. The boys of the Regiment were extremely lucky in that they were encamped beside a church each of the two nights. One night the boys attended Baptist Services at Shiloh Church where Mr. Jones was pastor; the next night they attended Methodist Services at Antioch Church where Mr. Smith was pastor.

The Regimental Chaplains took part in the program at each church, and both services were attended principally by soldiers. On the first night the Pastor preached the sermon to the soldiers on "Courage." Short talks were made in turn by Chaplains James L. Sandlin, Corporal Jessie Fowler of Yazoo City, Mississippi, and Chaplain Joseph E. Keiper. On the following night Chaplain Sandlin brought the message to the assembled soldiers.

Highlight of the religious programs was the singing by the Soldiers. Though they had tramped the roads all day, they joined heartily in the songs. During the maneuver the men have managed in different ways to attend Religious Services. On their return to Camp programs will again be held regularly by the Regimental Chaplains.

Water Slows But Never Stops Marching Men

Nothing stops the fighting Dixie Division as evidenced by the fact that in this weeks maneuver time and time again bridges were blown up in their march toward Shreveport. The trucks and command cars went right on with the aid of the 106th Engineers, who did some very fine work in building new ones over which to pass. Several times the units crossed streams with water flooding over the running boards of their cars, but on they went in a never ceasing march toward Shreveport until the war was ended Sunday afternoon.

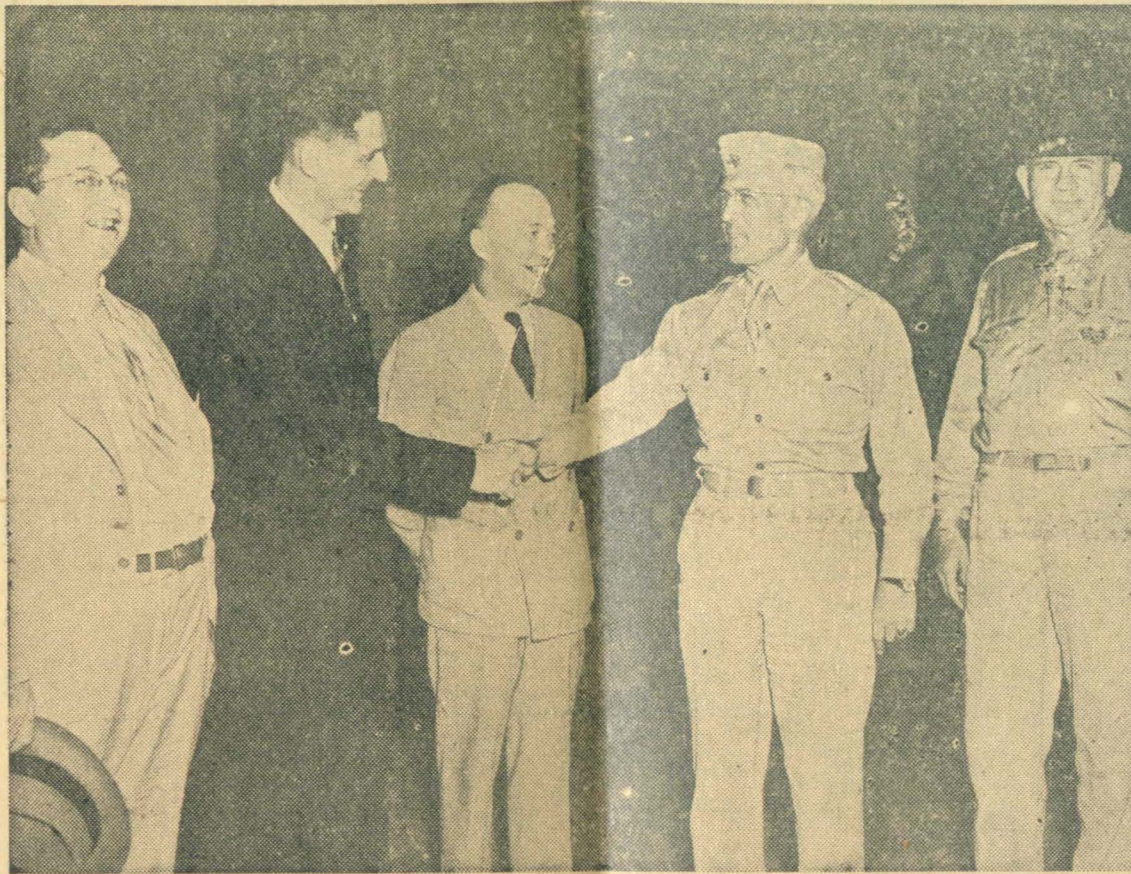
Dry Ice Keeps Men's Water Cold

Corp. Jack Boggs and Private Tim Timmerman, Headquarters Battery, 116th Field Artillery, devised a new method of maintaining ice water in their canteens during maneuvers.

A quantity of "dry ice" (solidified carbon dioxide) was discarded by an itinerant ice cream retailer and found by the two 31st (Dixie) Division soldiers. They placed a thick layer of the "ice" in the bottom of their canteen cups, fitted the canteens tightly in the cups, and placed the cup and canteen in the cover attached to the belt. Soon the water was ice cold and even had ice flakes in it.

The Press Follows Division's Triumphant March

Official Welcome Given Dixie Commander



On hand to greet Maj. Gen. John C. Persons, commander of the 31st (Dixie) Division, when its units rolled into Mobile were: (Left to right) Judge Ben Turner, president of the Chamber of Commerce; Acting Mayor Charles A. Baumhauer; D. S. M. Unger, chairman of the military and naval affairs committee of the Chamber; General Persons (shaking hands with Baumhauer), and Col. Phillip Fox, commander of the Gulf Coast recreational areas.

Hearty Welcome Extended Troops By Coast City

Gulfport, Miss., Oct. 5 — This bustling Gulf Coast resort forgot nothing in extending a grand welcome to the first batch of Dixie Division soldiers to bivouac here on their way to Camp Blanding. When the 106th Engineers and some detachments of the 106th Medical Regiment and the 106th Quartermasters rolled in early this afternoon from Hammond, La., they found that a crowded schedule of street dances, band concerts, community sings, and motorcades had been arranged for them.

And so it will be from now through Monday night, when the last of the Blanding boys settle down to a night's sleep before moving on to their next stop. Tonight on the wide streets of Gulfport over 700 men are cavorting in true holiday style. And, why not, you may ask. Isn't the maneuver over, that is, until the men move on up into the Carolinas, later on this month.

Tonight a big dance was given for the soldier boys through the WPA director of recreation, Mrs. Rose Waterer. Assisting Mrs. Waterer was Mrs. W. L. Legg of the woman's coordinating committee. With Military Maids on duty, the dances will be repeated every night at the Gulfport Community House. Among churches that have joined in making the stay of the soldiers a happy one are the Methodist Church through their board of stewards; the Mary Reeves Mission Circle, and the Belle Bennett Sunday School Class.

All over town open houses are being held, and lounges have been provided at the Community House, K. of C. Hall, and other places. On Sunday a community sing will be held under the direction of Mrs. Luther Hines and Mrs. W. L. Barbour. Then, beginning Sunday night, there will be street dances under the sponsorship of the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce. Music will be furnished by the Gulfport High school band.

Gulfport apparently forgot nothing. What a soldier appreciates more than anything else is a nice shower, especially after a two months in the woods of Louisiana. Free showers are being offered all men at the Yacht Club and the West Side Pavilion. Then Sunday evening there will be a motorcade for all the service men.

Major S. E. Minikes, who is commander of the United States Army Recreational area which is the bivouac base of our troops, left no stone unturned to assure the safety and comfort of the soldiers as they pulled into the area. All in all, the soldiers are really being treated royally at Gulfport. Every night at 7 o'clock until the men have to start back to the bivouac area there is a continual round of entertainment. And out at the big recreation center, things are never dull. Officials say that the center will be tripled in size and facilities very soon.

As the caravans rolled through Starke, the men who were awake could get a glimpse of signs

Simulated Planes Don't Satisfy Says Lieutenant

Add to the few who were disappointed in Hammond, La., 1st Lt. Edgar E. Merrill, acting executive officer of Headquarters Co., 124th Infantry. When the officer, an amateur pilot, heard that the Hammond bivouac was to be the city's airport, he became excited. Here was a chance to add to his hours of flying time. But when he arrived, Lt. Merrill found his flying would have to be on the ground. Parts of the airport not covered with trucks were a sea of mud and in the hanger, in place of planes, was the bivouac's canteen.

Men Returning From War Games Will Be Feted

Tallahassee, Fla., Oct. 5—Soldiers returning to Camp Blanding from maneuvers in Louisiana will pass through here for four days beginning today and will be entertained by local service organizations, civic and church groups. Open houses will be held nightly at the USO club and the Service club at the Old Leon high school. There will be 50 or 60 members of the Victrolas at each club to dance with the men. Games will be played and refreshments will be served.

Facilities will be provided for the men to write letters and cards home, and through special arrangement any soldier will be able to send a radiogram to members of his family or any of his friends stationed at army posts anywhere in the United States.

Five amateur radio operators licensed as army operators will pick up the messages twice each day and send them. They will be relayed by amateur operators in the town or city to where the message is directed. There the message will be received and telephoned to the person to whom directed. No charge will be made for the radiograms.

Each night beginning tonight from 7:30 to 8, there will be a band concert under the direction of Romulus Thompson at the bandshell behind the courthouse.

While the men are thus being entertained, ranking officers will be guests of Governor and Mrs. Holland at the executive mansion. Tonight Major General John C. Persons, commanding officer of the 31st Division, will be the dinner guest of the Governor and Mrs. Holland as will Lieut. Col. and Mrs. George W. McRory. Tomorrow night Brig. Gen. Joseph C. Hutchison, commanding officer of the 62nd Infantry Brigade, will be the guest of Governor and Mrs. Holland. Tuesday night, General Sumter L. Lowry, commanding general of the 56th Field Artillery Brigade, will be a dinner guest.

screaming greetings from every angle. The people of their neighboring town, for some reason, had missed the boys and wanted to express their feelings about their safe return.

Bands Greet Mobile Troops On Return Home

Mobile, Ala., Oct. 3—Excitement and anticipation was high Friday when the Mobile boys of Special Troops, 31st Division detrucked in their home town, returning from two months of Louisiana War Games. The city's streets were lined for blocks as the motorcycle police escort with sirens wailing led the convoy of trucks through the city to the bivouac area at the Fair Grounds.

Fond parents, wives and sweethearts were already waiting when the soldiers climbed from their trucks. The 167th Infantry band, which accompanied the first echelon, struck up a lively air, alternating playing with the Mobile Fireman's band.

Lt. Col. George Haas, commanding officer of the Mobile troops, announced that the usual 11 p. m. curfew would not be enforced in the case of the Mobile soldiers permitting them to spend as much time as possible with their friends and relatives.

The main attraction to civilians in the bivouac area were the huge loaves of GI light bread. Women seemed especially interested in the army baker's product. Several soldiers tucked loaves under their arms and took them home so the folks could sample it.

Acting Mayor Charles A. Baumhauer, who headed the Mobile reception committee greeted Major General John C. Persons of Birmingham when the Dixie Division commander arrived. The committee announced that an extensive program of entertainment had been planned for the Alabama troops who bivouaced in Mobile Saturday and Sunday nights.

Milton Gives A Welcome To Dixie

Milton, Florida, Oct. 4, 1941—Four miles from the site where Andrew Jackson bivouaced his soldiers many years ago previous to his attack against the Spanish held city of Pensacola, the Dixie Division stopped overnight on the way back to Blanding, first echelon arriving Saturday, commanded by General Persons.

Milton, a town of 2,000 souls, boasting a "Fair and Square" club, has one of the most active Jaycees organizations in the state. This club, headed by president W. F. Rivenbark, welcomed the Dixie Division to the city in a number of ways. Soldiers were received royally by all citizens and business men, as a result of work of the organization. Fifty shower baths were prepared in advance for the troops. Towels and soap were furnished free. The city also furnished the division its water free. Secretary of the organization is Attorney W. D. Robertson and also founded the Jaycees 2 years ago, and executive secretary is Matthew Murray. The city also has a limited sup-

Dixie Reporters Stationed In Each Town To Assist Local Papers In Welcome Of Blanding-Bound Soldiers

Maneuver-weary soldiers looked forward as much as anything possibly to just getting out of the woods, seeing the bright lights, chatting with civilians who were interested in them.

Cities along the route taken by Dixie soldiers responded admirably. Mobile, Gulfport, Tallahassee, Hammond, Milton — had warm welcomes, appreciated what the boys had been through, and showed it.

In the following stories, written by DIXIE staff men, stationed at bivouacs along the way and working with local newspapers, some of the spontaneity, the appreciation, and the zeal with which these cities made the welcome not just something printed on a banner, is given.

In Hammond, Pvt. E. J. Land was stationed; Gulfport, Pvt. Gene Thatcher, Mobile, Pvt. Charles Hinkle; Tallahassee, Pvt. A. W. Anderson; Milton, Corp. E. M. Meadows. Other DIXIE reporters rode with convoys, gathering material for the current issue, sending in news ahead. From Hammond on it was "WELCOME SOLDIER!"

Dixie Division Field Artillery Reaches Hammond

"And the caissons go rolling along."

Not old-style, horse-drawn caissons but big powerful Army trucks rolled through the streets of Hammond today as the third contingent of 31st (Dixie) Division troops, composed mainly of two regiments of field artillery, arrived to make an overnight stop at the airport east of the city on their jaunt to their home base at Camp Blanding, Fla., from the maneuver area.

The trucks carrying the soldiers and drawing the big "155's" and "75's" began passing through the streets of Hammond at 2 p. m., and were still passing at 4 p. m. Approximately 4,000 soldiers were in this group.

Commanded by Brigadier General Sumter L. Lowry, Jr., head of the 56th Field Artillery Brigade, the echelon, the third to stop for the night in the city, included the 114th Field Artillery from Mississippi, Florida's 116th Field Artillery; the 6th Evacuation hospital unit, the 58th Medical Battalion, part of the 204th M. P. Company, the 57th Ordnance Co., and Co. C of the 28th Quartermaster regiment, all IV Corps troops; and the 31st Anti-Tank Battalion, made up of soldiers from the four Southern states contributing to the 31st Division.

As on Thursday and Friday nights, soldiers jammed the streets, packed recreation halls, and taxed supplies of stores to almost a shortage point. Dances for enlisted men and for officers, sponsored by community organizations, drew large crowds.

Planned for Sunday's contingent of troops, scheduled to be the second largest to pass through Hammond, are special programs at the city churches and a huge "Soldier Sing" in Southeastern College's Strawberry Stadium. The "sing" is scheduled to begin at 8 p. m., and in addition to community singing will include selections by local artists.

Alabamans Flock To Visit Soldiers

Hundreds of Alabama cars flooded the busy traffic lanes Sunday, flocking into Milton to wait in the sizzling hot sunshine for their Alabama soldiers of the 117th Field Artillery regiment to arrive at their overnight stop. As soon as the troops could arrive, their people and sweethearts could find them and they could make necessary arrangements, they were whisked away for a few hours of reunion and pleasure. Most of the cars full of people came from Southern Alabama cities and towns. Brigadier General Hutchinson, commander of the Second Echelon, with which the 117th traveled, welcomed all visitors and made it possible for those having guests to be free from duty.

Most unique feature of the Jaycees services was an "information booth," on the main thoroughfare into the heart of town where soldiers could be informed about the town, learn where to find the showers and major points of interest in town, from a group of pretty and informative girls. Also, the girls had a list of local beauties with whom soldiers might get dates—as long as they lasted!

Soldiers also visited the county fair being held in Milton while they were passing through.

Soldier Forces Reach Hammond 6,000 Strong

Hammond, Louisiana, Oct. 2—Tonight this Louisiana city of approximately 6,000 people had on its outskirts a twin, nearly half its size, that will be torn down tomorrow morning while the population of Hammond is still in its beds; only to be renewed tomorrow afternoon more than doubled in size and continued through Sunday.

This migratory city is made up of the 31st (Dixie) Division soldiers, who begin tonight to make the city an overnight stopping point on their five day journey from the Louisiana maneuver area to their home station at Camp Blanding, Florida.

Representatives for this first group of more than 3,000 southern soldiers, which included several hundred New Orleans members of the 106th Medical Regiment, were met at the City Hall by Major W. B. Jordan. Greetings of the city were extended to them and announcement was made of a wide entertainment program that included dances for both officers and enlisted men, partners furnished, wide-open recreation centers and business houses that stayed open extra hours to accommodate the soldier trade.

The first series of troops passed through the main streets of Hammond yesterday at approximately 2 p. m. to their area west of the city where the camp was immediately set up at the airport site. The troops were still moving through the city an hour and a half later.

Today's contingent of troops, commanded by Major-General John C. Persons, Dixie Division head, was made up of division headquarters units and Fourth Corps troops 770 men of the 106th Engineer regiment, and 732 men of the 106th Medical regiment.

To handle the sudden activity in the town, soldier policemen stood side by side with local police, on the streets, directing traffic and keeping the maneuver weary soldiers under control.

Negro soldiers, who drove many of the 700 trucks of the convoys were taken care of at the Greenfield Baptist church.

Power Of Press Again Proven By Shorn Heads

The troops arriving with the first echelon at Hammond on Thursday almost missed long-awaited opportunities to receive tonsorial attention. Barber shops in the friendly Louisiana city usually close Thursdays, but were prevailed upon to open late in the afternoon.

This event was brought about by the combined efforts of three members of the press—Reporters Charles W. Hinkle and George H. Siegel of the DIXIE and Mrs. Kenneth Furbos of the Hammond Vindicator. Scribes Hinkle and Siegel, while turning out stories in the Vindicator office, mentioned how much good a haircut and shave would do them when informed of the Thursday closing agreement.

They then prevailed upon Mrs. Furbos to telephone the barbers and indicate the volume of business that would be lost, if their shops were to remain closed. One by one the barbers agreed to accommodate the troops, and by five-thirty in the afternoon were doing a capacity business.

Girl Reporter Writes About Dixie

Editors Note:—(The writer of this article, only woman to report the Louisiana Maneuvers, spent a day with the 31st Infantry Division, getting the "woman's slant" on War Games.)

By Bette Barber
Society Editor, Jackson (Miss.)
Daily News

SOMEWHERE IN LOUISIANA WITH THE DIXIE DIVISION ON MANEUVERS

Sunday I was society editor of a daily newspaper being entertained at Hope Farm in Natchez, Miss., sleeping in the luxurious King's Room suite. Monday at noon I had ridden over one hundred miles in a combat car — Jeep to you—and in the heart of Louisiana swamps, Major General John C. Persons, commanding general of the Fighting 31st (Dixie) Division, removed the colorful division insignia pin from his own shoulder and pinned it on my cap.

I became the first girl reporter to sit in on the war pow-wows of the actual battlefield in our Army's greatest peacetime war maneuvers. And I'm glad it was with the 31st Division composed of men from my home state, Alabama, Florida and Louisiana because I got a good free and long look at this thing called army morale that has been taking such a beating in discussions from the congressional halls to homes ever since this man's army was mobilized.

I've ridden almost 300 miles in a Jeep. In the hot sun, in a blinding rain. I am bitten by insects, my eyes burn from wind and strain. I'm sunburned and weary and I am ashamed to even mention it when I think of the hardships those boys laugh their way through every day on maneuvers.

In a sunlit clearing in the swamps I found Major General Persons, bending over a small table covered with maps, with Lieut. General Walter Kruger, commander of the Third Army. We advanced to General Persons' table and his handclasp like his welcome was warm and friendly. He asked me what I was most interested in and wanted to see and I said any and all of it and we started a conversation that lasted through lunch and for an hour afterwards, broken into by everything from a private to a lieutenant-colonel. Because the general is that kind of a man—you can get at him when you need him, or his headquarters staff, but it surely makes his men know that they're tops!

"You're interested in morale? The most conclusive proof I can give you of the condition with us can best be illustrated by what happened at Winnfield. In that first maneuver our men captured 2,700 men and lost only 300. That spells morale." He didn't add that his division won that engagement when pitted against the rest of the IV Army Corps. The boys had already told me that.

When I got back in the Jeep to start over the battle lines, the lad in front, Corporal Ira Smith of Alabama, said, "How did you like our general?" "And what did he say about us?" And he got the answers he wanted, this boy who had had only 30 minutes sleep in two days and nights and was smiling.

I saw the Dixie Division's mobile kitchens, stood in a mess line, visited a hospital collecting company, actually shot a machine gun. I saw the soldiers sleeping on the ground, dry and wet. I heard them swap jokes, saw them gathered in the yards of isolated farm homes, playing with the small children, chatting with grownups, their machine guns and rifles at their elbows. We noticed that even under such difficult circumstances they were trying to keep shaven, were cutting each other's hair with a fair degree of success. And yes, I saw one standing in the door of a country store with his arm about a lovely!

We Jeeped on an emergency mission to another division headquarters, through their lines, and we found less alertness, more confusion, fewer happy faces, less knowledge of their own and the enemy's position. We heard from one of the boys that some of the men there were subscribing to the much publicized "Ohio" movement.

"But, know what's going the rounds?" grinned my friend of

Pied Piper Of Wormdom

During a period of relaxation last week Capt. Thomas L. Baggett of Headquarters Battery, 1st Bn., 114th Field Artillery explained to his men how they might have begun fishing much earlier, that is, before they were big enough to dig for worms. "You see," explained the captain, "the worm has an individual ear for music; and if you are talented, you can bring it right up to the surface to listen to you perform."



General Persons shows pretty reporter friendly planes maneuvering over 31st Division Command Post.

he 31st. "Any man who thinks he can walk out on this man's army can be sure of one thing. The 31st wants to be the one to ring him back."

When Tom, Dick and Harry come marching home from maneuvers, you sweethearts and wives and mothers, you'd better watch your ribbons, those tricky bows worn in the hair, those that dorn your dresses and hats. Because a piece of red, blue, green or white cloth, just about enough to tie a good bow somewhere, has become very important to your young man! That is his identification and must be worn at all times. It's as important as his pants.

And if you think the ladies have the corner on the latest ideas in personal decoration and hair do's and hats, come along with me to the middle of the battlefield in Louisiana. One soldier I saw had on one of those new hats, those little round numbers with a short brim all the way around. And he had tied a neat bow of blue cloth, signifying his side of battle, and had pinned up the brim of his hat in front with the bow. Very coy. Pretty soon, one came along that had gone him one better! He had a bow and a band of the material stretched over the top of the crown and tagging in the down-in-the-back fashion now popular! Worn with dirty blue-jeans, it was very effective.

The red and blue stood for battle sides, the green for the press, and the white for the Big Boys and non-combatants. The more I saw of that piece of cloth, fluttering from the tail end of a motorcycle rider's cap, strung across the chest of a tough M. P., banded about men's arms, tied scarf fashion about their necks, the more it intrigued me. It spoke of the individuality and spirit of fun I found consistent in these new American soldiers.

Major General Persons entertained at a brief but delightful luncheon somewhere in the middle of the maneuver area. Seated on camp chairs at the head table were Lt. Colonel Frederick Bradshaw, 31st Division G-2; Lt. Colonel Joseph L. Peterson, G-3; Lt. Colonel George W. McRory, G-4; Captain C. W. Springer, aide de camp; Lt. O. C. McDavid, all of headquarters staff, and me. Gathered about on tree stumps and other makeshift tables were the boys of the 31st. Food for all of us consisted of substantial meat-sandwiches, garnished with mustard and pickle, apples and oranges and coffee.

You wonder how your poor boy is being fed while on maneuvers? Mothers, you can relax! Colonel McRory and his helpers have the pure food and water situation well in hand! The colonel, who likes to eat right himself, told me that the division draws 90,000 pounds of food per day. Water, 1,500 balloons of it, is hauled to the camp site each day with plenty of re-

perform."

The story was fantastic; the men could not believe it; and so the Captain demonstrated. Driving a stake well into the ground and taking another piece of wood which he used for a bow, the maestro began. The wide-eyed soldiers drew closer as the grating strains went forth, and the worms came. At least a half dozen were found in the immediate vicinity of the "music." The Captain closed the demonstration by simply stating that he had never dug for one in his life.

serve kept on hand.

Before lunch I spent quite a while at a mobile kitchen unit with a boy who knows what food is for and how to fix it. Mess Sergeant Pete Gulas who has his own restaurant in Mobile where he was doing well before the draft blew him into Camp Blanding. Now he's still doing well according to the 300-odd men who pass his way at 6, 12 and 6. Gulas, and his crew of six cooks, nine K. P.'s took a great deal of pride in showing me their setup.

The kitchen is a two-and-one-half ton truck. On it are four of the new type stove units operated by tank gas and a huge refrigerator. Here three meals a day are prepared by the kitchen crew when the outfit is camping for the night or when it's on the move over dusty roads and wet ones. Over hill, over dale the cook stove sings merrily along all day.

"How do we eat? You tell her," said Gulas to Lt. Grady Flynn, as Irish as his name.

"This morning we had scrambled eggs, bacon, grits and coffee and it was good. It always is although it isn't fixed fancy," offered the lieutenant.

If you have heard the soldiers sleep right on the ground, you've been correctly informed because Mother Nature provides their bed unless a man is fortunate enough to find a spot in a truck. I saw them spread out at every angle imaginable and looking none the worse for same.

"When I woke up the other morning I thought the ground had gotten mighty soft," a boy told me, "and I put my hand out to my rolled-up blanket. It had rained hard and I was floozy!"

Yes, he thought it was funny! All over the nation, you've kissed the boys goodbye and stood in awesome silence as they made big talk of war and maneuvers with authority, and have no doubt painted in your tender mind's eye battle scenes ala the movies, with shots flying thick and heavy with broken bodies all over the place. You can relax. Tain't so. This, my dears, is simulated warfare and the only disaster that can befall your boy will more than likely be his own fault.

Come on down to the thick of the battlefield. Your lad may get a broken leg. Want to hear how it happens? An umpire notifies a company commander he wants six broken legs, two crushed chests and eight broken heads. The kindly C. O. puts the finger on your boy and says, "Hey, you got a broken leg." And Son obligingly falls to the ground, holding onto his left leg. It's as simple as that.

Imagination? Sure, but that's only the beginning! He stays on the ground, resting comfortably until the first aid boys come around. Yep, that old left leg gets a bandage here and a bandage there just like it was sure-

Bandsmen Work While Infantry Takes Marches

A new high was reached this week by the 124th Regimental Band. They were instructed to leave their musical instruments at the base camp and go along with Regimental Headquarters on the second phase of the maneuvers.

In war times it is the duty of the band to dig the graves of the dead so in order to keep in

condition the members of the musical organization were detailed to dig latrines and garbage pits wherever the C. P. moved. Another detail the note blowers fell heir to was the setting up of officers' tents and other tents around the 124th C. P. Last but not least, they did guard duty of two hours at a time at night.

Two battalions of the 124th Infantry, the 2nd and 3rd, have each a distinctive type of mascot. They have two armadillos, captured in the woods of Louisiana.

enough. Then he is turned over to the ambulance boys, gets a nice ride, goes through the collecting station and eventually reaches medical clearing station. Meanwhile he is treated throughout this performance like a man with a broken leg. When he is finally released from the clearing station his left leg is again his own to get about with as he sees fit!

I suppose you know by now that this is a war of umpires when you get right down to it! Each company has its own umpires and when any group of the soldiers gets to work on a tactical battle problem, these boys go along with their flags, red, white and blue. They judge the two opposing forces by their "fire power." A rifle is "one fire power," a certain type of machine gun is "ten fire power" and on up. When the umpires who have been especially trained for this all-important job arrive on the scene of a battle they decide the relative fire power of both sides. They plant the red flag on the side that is to advance, the blue on the weaker side, and they operate under the white flag which means neutral.

That's the way it goes, Girls, this simulated war. I'm not saying it is not tough for the boys to take, I am merely pointing out the fact that it puts the imaginative qualities of the men 'way out in front of that amount usually accredited to the ladies.

I saw boys patiently squatting beside gun emplacements, and again, flat on their tummies gazing endlessly into the sight of a machine gun awaiting the enemy. They'd be right there hours later, same position, same squat, same squint!

They would tell you with a serious face about a bridge that had been bombed and there it would be looking the same as usual to you. Perhaps you'd be good at this simulated war. There were times when I was no success at it. For instance, I was asked out of the Jeep at a machine gun emplacement for a picture. After an effort to comb my hair with no mirror and the steady scrutiny of the detachment manning the gun and another group that was marching by and going on down the road with their heads the wrong way on their necks, I gave up my out-door beautifying as a hopeless job.

They set about showing me how to operate the gun. Then, when the photographer said, "Ready, fire," did I simulate? Heck no, I fired the darn thing and nearly frightened myself and everyone within range to death!

From the dirty look the Sarge gave me, I think he was thinking the same thing one of the general's staff boys confided to my escort: "If our enemy would just send over about four dizzy blonds, what a field day they could have!"

Infantrymen Assist Wrecked Cavalrymen

The soldiers of the 124th Infantry came in handy one night during maneuvers. A large van loaded with prize horses came around a curve in the road and turned over, killing two of the mounts. The top of the van was torn off in the wreck. Members of the 124th helped the cavalrymen with their horses and in getting the van back on the road to travel again—without the animals this time.

Requirements For Filing Applications Are Listed

Enlisted men seeking dependency discharges, priority in dismissal order, should observe the following procedure:

1. All applications for Dependency Discharge should come through the soldier himself being in written form to his Commanding Officer.

2. With his written application, the soldier must submit the required affidavits. These should indicate that the soldier's presence at home is necessary for the support or care of members of his family. They should also indicate that the condition has arisen due to death or disability occurring in his family since his enlistment, although there are some exceptions to this that may warrant consideration.

3. The affidavits to be submitted with the written application follow:

(a) Affidavits from all adult dependents.

(b) Affidavits from two disinterested persons.

(c) Affidavits from attending physician, should there be one.

4. After the soldier has submitted to his Commanding Officer his written request with proper affidavits attached, the Commanding Officer will request a report of home conditions from the Red Cross through the post Field Director.

5. To avoid delay, it is necessary that the request for home conditions report contain: (a) full name of dependent (s); (b) relation of dependent to soldier; (c) proper addresses of dependents. In cases where the dependents live (s) in a rural area, it is advisable that full directions by which the Red Cross representatives may locate the home without difficulty be given.

6. Upon receipt of request, the Field Director will write to the Red Cross chapter covering the community in which the soldier's family lives requesting a home conditions report and enclosing a copy of the Commanding Officer's request if there is a duplicate.

7. The Home Chapter of the Red Cross then makes the investigation, filling out confidential report, Form 1310-A, and including what supplementary material seems advisable. These papers are then forwarded to the Field Director.

8. The Field Director then refers Form 1310-A and supplementary material if any, to the Commanding Officer by mail, stamping it "Confidential." Action thereafter taken is a matter for Army Authorities alone, although occasionally Commanding Officer may request further information from the Field Director who obtains it from the Home Chapter and refers it to the Commanding Officer.

Hearty Yawn Proves Too Much For Stiff Muscles

As if he weren't in enough trouble already, top Sergeant Robert L. Bethay crawled off his bed on the ground during maneuvers, and yawned. Yawning was a terrible mistake for the I Company Sergeant for his mouth stuck, wide open. In as much hurry as possible he hunted up the battalion Surgeon while pointing disconsolately at his locked jaws. In just thirty minutes the unlucky fellow's jaws were back in place.

Hard-Shell Animal Only Tank Captured

The 156th Infantry didn't get in any action with armored cars or tanks in the last phase of the Louisiana Maneuvers, but L Company from McComb, Mississippi did capture some of the armored forces of Louisiana. Private Lieun Autrey threw in a surprise attack and captured single handed one of the Pelican State's "Armadillos." It was not without a fight however. The queer animal took refuge in a hole and Private Autrey was forced to dig for his prey.

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Reporter Recounts Payday Blues As He Searches For Steak

Parked Truck Proves To Be Close Miss

If there is a desire to know how it feels to be run over by an Army truck don't try it, but ask Privates Johnny B. Trice and Robert V. Tindall of Headquarters Company from Vicksburg, Mississippi. When these two lads fell asleep nothing but the stars hovered over them. When they awoke they were staring the bottom of a truck in the face. No harm was done, as the wheels of the truck straddled the boys, and it stopped immediately at the howl they let out upon seeing it over them. It's a funny feeling, they agree.

First Sgts. Third Dream Proves Charm

A boy who takes his dreams seriously is 1st Sergeant Robert L. Bethay of Company I 155th Infantry from Laurel, Mississippi. During the recent maneuvers in Louisiana he dreamed that Lieutenant Koonce, company commander, had given him orders to alert the Company. He awoke and had trouble deciding whether it was a dream or the actual order had been given. He finally decided it was a dream and went back to sleep. Again he had the same dream, but again decided it was a dream.

The third time he dreamed it the top sergeant crawled from his bed and alerted the entire Company. It was just midnight when he had them get up, roll their packs, and begin the wait for the order to move. The grey of dawn was peeping over the horizon when the Lieutenant rose and told him of his mistake—too late to get any sleep then, so they just waited until time to pull out at seven o'clock that morning. In the meantime he bent over and invited anybody in the Company to come by and take a swift kick.

Pure Bred Hound Refuses Our G. I.

There's been quite a bit of belly-aching on the side about the type of breed the soldiers received during maneuvers, and from a report by 1st Sgt. Frank C. Pound of Battery C, 114th F. A. there no longer is doubt of the gravity of the situation. A big red hound came slipping through the area one day this week; and Sgt. Pound, feeling something in common with the lonesome looking creature, carried it down to the kitchen and got out a loaf of "fresh" G. I. The hound sniffed and walked away. "It all goes to show," said Sgt. Pound, "that a dog lives by instinct alone and doesn't mind in the least refusing what he doesn't consider up to par."

Boldbrick Champion Names Own Prize

Private Jack Stone, formerly of 114th Field Artillery Regimental Band and now of Service Battery 1st Battalion 114th Field Artillery, wants to know if there is such a thing as an army award for Champion Gold-Bricking. If so, Pvt. Stone thinks he should have it as he spent an entire morning on K. P., washing one pot.

Such subtle Gold-bricking—unlike the clumsy efforts of those who attempt to escape work by being sick—requires skill, says Stone. The army rewards skill, and thus the request for an award. Pvt. Stone suggests as an excellent medal a genuine gold brick for use as a paper weight.

South Floridians Almost Freeze In Cold Dawn

Soldiers of the 124th Infantry from South Florida saw what they called winter. The cold mornings the troops found for the last two weeks come very close to being as cold as the men from the southern part of the state have in the coldest months of the year.

Around almost any fire in the woods you could find them cuddled expressing a desire to go back to sunny Florida. They longed for the palm trees and warm tropical breezes which blesses the southern part of the state. They missed the long handle underwear tucked neatly away in their foot lockers back in Blanding and even the heavy overcoats.

By Pvt. Chas. Traylor

The small town of Oakdale will never forget the 31st Division. The biggest day in the town's history was when the Division paid off in their area just out of the city limits. The pay roll of around a million dollars was too much for Oakdale.

From the area, they steamed into town by the hundreds with money in their pockets and, after two weeks of hard maneuvers, they were looking forward to having a good time. The men wanted to buy everything they saw, wanted hair cuts massages and baths. A meal in a cafe with someone to wait on them with real dishes and napkins for a change. A few beers or drinks was also in order and the soldiers wanted music and some night life, which was out of the question as they could not find a hot spot for miles.

Two mess sergeants and a private went to town for a few hours. Sgt. Clyde Fortner, member of Company B of the 124th and Sgts. Joseph Willitt and Pfc. Charles Traylor, both of Company A. Above all they wanted a good steak and didn't care how much it cost. The three searched in vain but food was out in all the restaurants and the trio were getting very hungry as 9 p. m. came around.

Into a busy cafe strolled the three 124th men as the men inside were shouting for food which was not obtainable. "If we bought some steaks could we get them cooked here?" the three men asked. They were told that if they were lucky enough to find any steaks that they could get them cooked at the cafe so they dashed off to a meat market they had noticed up the street a few minutes before.

Inside the market they could find only round steak but that looked good to them. The butcher had gone home as all other meat in the department had been sold long before. Sgt. Willitt being well experienced in this line agreed to cut three steaks if allowed. The steaks wrapped, the three walked with a fast pace back to the cafe hoping that it was still open and found it still going strong in the sandwich business only.

"If you want those steaks you will have to cook them yourself as we are too busy now," the owner exclaimed as they entered the front door.

"O. K. with me" replied Sgt. Willitt.

Traylor and Fortner waited for more than an hour for the steaks to come out and were just about to inquire what had become of their friend when he came with the much treasured beef with all the trimmings.

Sgt. Willitt had been making sandwiches by the dozen for the establishment to help satisfy the many soldiers trying to secure something to eat while his precious steaks were getting cold.

CLASSIFIED

FOUND: Garand M-1 semi-automatic rifle No. 90539 at Gum Springs on Winnfield maneuvers. See supply sergeants, Service & Ammunition Btry., 1st Bn., 116th F. A.

LOST: Black guitar. La Tropical Beer label on neck. Corp. Wilbur E. Brooks, 116th F. A. Message Center.

LOST: Light tan pigskin wallet containing \$4 cash and valuable papers. Name engraved on wallet. Return wallet and papers, keep money as reward. Sgt. Chas. Brown, Hq. Btry., 1st Bn., 116th F. A.

LOST—Raincoat with name "Lt. P. J. Myers" lettered on inside. If found return to Captain Philip J. Myers, Hq. Btry., 114th Field Artillery 31st Division, Camp Blanding, Florida.

LOST—Complete web equipment including army .45 automatic. If found return to Pvt. Bob Moore, Hq. Btry., 114th Field Artillery, 31st Div. Camp Blanding, Florida.

LOST—Complete web equipment. If found return to Sgt. J. R. Prophet, Hq. Btry., 114th Field Artillery, 31st Division, Camp Blanding, Fla., initials "J.R.P." on pistol holster.

FOUND—1903 Model Springfield rifle at bivouac area at Cypress, La. Owner can claim by giving serial numbers at Co. I, 124th Inf.

LOST—Pocketbook marked "Pfc. Pete Romano" containing some money and papers in Louisiana maneuver area. Finder can keep money and pocketbook if papers returned to Pfc. Romano, Co. A, 156th Inf.